

Whitby Girls Hockey Association

Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2024-2025 Season

Location: Whitney Hall at Iroquois Park Sports Centre (IPSC).

Tuesday, June 17th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2024
- 3) Annual Update from the Directors of the Association for the 2024-25 period
- 4) Receive Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
- 5) Approval of WGHA auditors for fiscal year 2025-26
- 6) Election of Directors and Officers
- 7) Other Business - incl. Member questions and comments.
- 8) Adjournment

Supporting Materials/Action for WGHA AGM

June 17, 2025

1. Call to Order

The WGHA President will call the meeting to order and introduce Parliamentarian who will confirm meeting quorum.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2024

Available as part of this meeting package for your review.

3. Annual Update from the Directors of the Association for the 2024-25 period

Available as part of this meeting package for your review.

4. WGHA Financials and Auditors' Report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

These will be made available to members in printed format at the meeting. An overview of financials will be provided by WGHA Bookkeeper, Nancy Cable.

5. Approval of WGHA auditors for fiscal year 2025-26

Motion will be held to appointment of Ritchie Shortt & Tully Chartered Professional Accountants.

6. Election of Directors and Officers for Vacant Board Positions:

The Board has received 4 nominations before the June 6, 2024, nomination deadline.

All vacant roles received a nomination.

The following four candidates are acclaimed to the noted positions:

1. Denise McKinnon -President (incumbent)
2. Jehana Pallie – Jr HL Director
3. Tanya McPherson - VP of House League
4. Ange Varsmis – Director of Coach and Player Development
7. Other Business - incl. Member questions and comments.

**Whitby Girls Hockey Association
Annual General Meeting MINUTES
June 18, 2024**

Location: Whitney Hall at Iroquois Park Sports Centre, Whitby, ON

Time: 7:00pm - 8:49pm

Draft Minutes - to be approved at the June 2025 AGM

Board Attendance		
Board Member	Position	Present
1) Denis McKinnon	President	Yes
2) Jeff Webb	1 st VP/Director of Hockey Operations	Yes
3) VACANT	2 nd VP/House League	
4) Jason Hagan	Secretary	Yes
5) Su Horn	Registrar	No
6) Pat Brown	Referee in Chief	Yes
7) Steve Donegan	Director Player and Coach Development	Yes
8) Meera Vignarajah	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Director	Yes
9) Kayla Eldridge	Director of Public Relations	Yes
10) VACANT	Director of Trainers	
11) Tanya McPherson	Junior House League Director	Yes
12) Craig Vallbacka	Director of Sponsorship	Yes
13) Donna McFarlane	Clothing Director	No
14) Jeff Houle	Director of Ice Scheduling	Yes
15) Jehana Pallie	Tournament Director	Yes
16) Tyler Barnett	Past President	Yes

Guests:

Nancy Cable CPA CA, WGHA Bookkeeper

Agenda Items:

Call to order

With a quorum of members present, President, Denis McKinnon, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Approval of the AGM Minutes held on June 20, 2023

Motion: That the members of the Corporation approve The Minutes of the AGM of June 20, 2023, as presented.

Moved by Craig Vallbacka

Seconded by Meera Vignarajah

CARRIED

Presentation of Executive Reports

Reports for all WGHA Board Directors were delivered to the members in the meeting package.

Motion: That the members of the Corporation receive the annual updates from the Directors of the WGHA.

Moved by Tanya McPherson

Seconded by Stephane Charon

CARRIED

WGHA Financials and Auditors' Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

Financial statements and Auditor's Report were made available to members in printed format at the meeting. An overview of financials and the Auditor's Report from Ritchie Shortt & Tully Chartered Professional Accountants, were provided by WGHA Bookkeeper, Nancy Cable.

Motion: That the members receive the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Moved by Denise McKinnon

Seconded by Jehana Pallie

CARRIED

Approval of WGHA auditors for fiscal year 2024-25

Motion: That the members approve the appointment of Ritchie Shortt & Tully Chartered Professional Accountants, as the WGHA auditors for fiscal year 2024-25.

Moved by Corrie Dixon

Seconded by Craig Vallbacka

CARRIED

Approval of new WGHA By-Law No. 1 and Articles of Amendment

The Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act, 2010 was proclaimed on October 19, 2021, and compliance with the Act is required by October 18, 2024. Included as part of this meeting package was the new WGHA by-law #1 for member review, as well as a briefing note that explains the changes, as well as the proposed WGHA Articles of Amendment that need to be filed with the government to ensure WGHA compliance with the Act.

Motion: That the members of the Corporation approve the new By-Law No. 1 and the Articles of Amendment effective June 18, 2024, and direct and authorize the Directors to take all necessary and desirable actions to implement the foregoing resolution.

Moved by Denise McKinnon

Seconded by Jarryd Jennings

CARRIED

Election of Directors and Officers for Vacant Board Positions:

The Board received 9 nominations before the May 31, 2023 nomination deadline. All vacant roles received a nomination except for the Director of Ice Scheduling.

The following five candidates are acclaimed to the noted positions:

- Patrick Brown (incumbent) - Referee-in-chief
- Su Horn (incumbent) - Registrar
- Tanya McPherson (incumbent) - Junior House League Director
- Craig Vallbacka (incumbent) - Sponsorship Director
- Jeff Webb - 1st VP/GM Director of Hockey Operations

There was an election for the Board Secretary position with 2 candidates interested. A third candidate withdrew their nomination following the close of nominations.

Candidates:

- Jarryd Jennings
- Shannon Martin

Each candidate offered remarks to the membership at the AGM before a vote was taken.

The winning candidate was Jarryd Jennings.

There was an election for the Director of Trainers position with 2 candidates interested. A third candidate withdrew their nomination following the close of nominations:

Candidates:

- Matthew Leech
- Laura Peddle

Each candidate offered remarks to the membership at the AGM before a vote was taken.

The winning candidate was Laura Peddle.

There were no nominations received for the Director of Ice Scheduling, and there were no nominations from the floor. The Board will seek a candidate to appoint to this position for the two year term.

Other Business - incl. Member questions and comments.

There were member questions and comments, summarized as:

- Members would prefer e-transfers for payment, rather than cheques.
- Why does the WGHA not have more logo products available on-demand with a requirement to order in advance.
- How can WGHA boost goalie #s for U18 house league?
- Why does U18 not have practices in addition to the two weekly games?
- There should be a review of goalie and player import rules for representative teams, as too many WGHA players are leaving to play in other leagues.
- Coach conduct should be monitored more closely by Board and infractions should be treated more seriously.
- The WGHA should do more to protect young female referees from verbal abuse by coaches and players
- There should be an enforceable code of conduct for team bench staff
- WGHA should maintain the current logo throughout the term of the current clothing RFP.
- The board explained that WGHA has non-parent paid coaches for the U13AA, U15AA and U18AA and U22AA (Jr Elite) teams.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Annual General Meeting at 8:49pm.

Moved by Tanya McPherson
Seconded by Matt Leech

CARRIED

President's Report 2024-25 Season

Thank to the board for your commitment and long hours of volunteering both at and away from the rink including the Tournament of Heroes and House League Championship Weekend. Thank you for supporting the various changes and processes that the board has been able to implement this past season.

A special thank you to all of the coaches, trainers, on-ice helpers, managers/treasurers and dressing room supervisors who are vital to our success on and off the ice. The countless hours at the rink and at home prepping for games, practices and tournaments has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your time, effort and dedication.

The WGHA had another successful year and one without any disruptions which has not happened since the 2018/19 season.

18 Representative teams were iced again this season with many successes along the way in tournament play and large number of teams qualifying for both League playoffs/Provincial Playdowns and Provincial/League Championships. This season saw again many Rep teams involved in mentoring younger teams and continued community involvement initiatives such as Feed the need and the CIBC run for the cure.

Thank you to our Town of Whitby partners for continuing our Iroquois Park Pad 1 dressing room agreement as well as the requested improvements to give our High Performance Jr Elite Program a dedicated space to call their own that will continue to attract skilled players to the WGHA. Also, we appreciate the hanging of our Rep team Championship banners and the ongoing cooperation with ice scheduling requests.

A few of the processes that the board implemented this season included the following:

- 1) Rep and DS Coach commitment letters and executive board members code of conduct implemented.
- 2) Financial regulation for Rep and DS teams with Realtime Online Budgets using CRA rates and uniform agreed on compensations for HPP teams staff.
- 3) Standardized Rep Coach interviews process implemented for the 2025-26 season.
- 4) House League coach support and mentoring

Thank you to our WGHA families for their support in allowing the WGHA to run a successful 2024-25 Hockey season and for the privilege of providing girls in Whitby a community space to raise strong, confident girls.

House League Directors Report

The 2024–2025 season was a success. In partnership with the VP of House League, we focused on enhancing both player development and coach support across the U11–U15 age groups.

One of our major initiatives was working alongside Scary Skate to develop and implement structured practice plans to guide the majority of the season. These plans provided consistent, high-quality development opportunities across the divisions. In addition, Scary Skate was on the ice twice a month with U11–U15 teams to support coaches, offer feedback, and help ensure players were receiving strong technical instruction throughout the year.

As part of our player development program, we ran DS (Development Stream) teams in U11, U13, U15, U18. Our DS teams had very successful seasons, with multiple semi-final tournament finishes, a Championship finish for the U15 DS team in the Oshawa tournament.

Championship Weekend was an overwhelming success. Thank you to Tanya McPherson, Director, Jr House League, who led the planning and execution of our Championship Weekend. From puck drops by Mayor Elizabeth Roy to photo booths, tattoos, WGHA merch and a weekend filled with exciting hockey games, it was a weekend the athletes won't soon forget!

The top House League teams from U11 - U18 also participated in the Queen of the Rink tournament - a great way to end the season!

We also delivered another successful 12 week *First Shift* program, welcoming 46 new participants to our association. This program was led by an all-female coaching staff made up of 10 coaches, 6 current Wolves players and 4 up-and-coming coaches. Their leadership not only created a great experience for the players but also reinforced our commitment to growing female leadership in sport.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, coaches, convenors, and families for their support and dedication this season. We look forward to continuing to build on these initiatives in the year ahead.

Registrar's Report for 2024/25 Season

Registered/ Rostered Players with WGHA for the 2024/25 season:

House League:	423
Rep:	306
Total:	729

Number of Teams for the 2024/25 season:

	U7	U9	U11	U13	U15	U18	U22	SENIOR	Total
HL	4	4	6	4	4	5	1	NA	28
Rep	NA	2	3	4	4	4	1	1	19
Total	4	6	9	8	8	9	2	1	47

Volunteer Staff for the 2024/25 Season:

Head Coach/Asst Coach	122
Managers	20
Trainers	86
Staff (On Ice Help/Treasurer)	64
Total	292

Annual General Meeting Report
Director of Trainers, WGHA
May 29, 2025

As the Director of Trainers for the Whitby Girls Hockey Association (WGHA), I am pleased to present my report, highlighting key initiatives and responsibilities undertaken in preparation for the 2024/2025 season.

1. Monthly Communication & Injury Reports

Established a streamlined communication protocol that mandates monthly check-ins with our trainers. Furthermore, I requested regular injury reports to stay informed about the health and safety of our athletes, ensuring timely interventions where necessary.

2. Liaison with OWHA for Claims

In my role as the intermediary between parents and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), I assisted in the claims process for injuries. This vital connection ensured that our trainers and athletes received the necessary support during challenging circumstances.

3. Scheduling Coordination for Tryouts

I took an active role in attending and coordinating the schedule for trainers during tryouts, guaranteeing there were no conflicts of interest. It was mandated that all trainers be rostered with WGHA and not be a family member of any skater attending the tryout. Additionally, I provided trainer kits for those in need during the session(s) to ensure they were adequately prepared.

4. Virtual Meeting with House League Trainers

Alongside the Junior House League Director, I participated in a virtual meeting to welcome our house league trainers. This initiative aimed to foster a sense of community and shared objectives among our trainers, strengthening the operational cohesiveness across all divisions.

It has been a productive year, filled with challenges and opportunities for growth. I look forward to continuing to serve the WGHA and enhancing the support we offer to our trainers and athletes alike.

Laura

Report Summary for Tournament Director – 2024

The tournament of heroes was yet again a very successful event bringing in 120 teams across Ontario participating among 17 divisions. The tournament generated close to \$40K in profits to the association. I wouldn't have been able to successfully deliver this tournament if not for my fellow board members, volunteers, tournament organizers, referees, time keepers, town and rink staff.

Apart from the tournament I have also been oversight to the association financials as well as the Junior Wolves team as the secondary signatory on the team account. While the association is continuously improving on transparency and integrity on every process related to members and their activities. We are also striving to reduce barriers to entry to the community by organizing various events at Play in Whitby day etc. The board itself cohesively works well together in achieving a common objective and that is to keep our players first in every decision that is taken at the board level. I wish everyone a very successful year ahead as well as a well deserved and much needed summer break.

Just a note to thank the Board for their support during the 2024/25 season. We had a number of incidents which resulted in suspensions, but in all it was a very good season. We had 19 new officials join our officiating team and look forward to adding more for the 2025/26 season. I have sent out notification inquiring as to how many officials will be returning. I would also like to thank Bruce and Ryan for scheduling the tournament and for scheduling both the house league and 2 person system as games arise. Bruce has acted as a monitor for the younger officials, and I joined the OWHA as an Officiating Coach this past January working primarily with our more seasoned referees. The younger officials have been very positive regarding the feedback from Bruce and noticeable improvement has been evident. Again thank you and we will see you at the rink.

Pat Brown
Referee-in-chief
Whitby Girls Hockey

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Report

This year marked the first full season for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) role within WGHA, with a clear mission to advance access, participation, and opportunity for marginalized and underrepresented groups. Our vision is to foster an inclusive environment where all members and the broader Whitby community feel welcome and valued.

Key Areas of Activity and Impact

1. Training & Education:

- Conducted foundational board training in collaboration with *Lead Thru Sport*, building a shared understanding of diversity, inclusion, and equity principles and their relevance to WGHA operations.
- Integrated DEI awareness into board practices, with ongoing support to embed inclusive decision-making and equitable leadership across all levels.

2. Awareness & Outreach:

- Executed a series of social media campaigns to celebrate and educate the community on key DEI milestones, including Black History Month, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and Pride Month.
- Submitted an application to the Whitby Mayor's Community Development Fund to support future DEI-focused programming and community engagement efforts.

3. Equity in Governance & Operations:

- Supported transparent and equitable practices in communications, coaching selection, and conflict of interest resolution processes.
- Advised on policy updates and contributed to board discussions to ensure that an equity lens informs organizational priorities and decisions.

4. Community & Member Engagement:

- Assisted in the planning and execution of WGHA-hosted events, ensuring that DEI considerations were integrated into event design and delivery.
- Provided ongoing DEI guidance and hands-on support to board members across various operational areas.

Clothing Director Report

Board Meeting – May 20, 2025

1. Once all the House League goalie equipment is returned and the inventory updated I will arrange for cleaning in the summer as per other years.
2. With the equipment room now cleaned out, it is a good time to consider buying additional house league goalie equipment to ensure that we have all the sizes and age groups covered. I will consult with Tanya and Nancy to determine what we need and then come back to the board for approval to purchase.
3. I will reach out to Their Opportunity and ask if they are now ready to take the excess house league jerseys and socks. They have never been used so hopefully we can find a home for them.
4. The rep team fittings day at Roy's was held on Saturday, May 10. For those parents who are placing online orders they have to be placed by May 26. The fittings went very smoothly with only a few really busy times and a few complaints.
5. Unfortunately, we were short one set of tryout stickers as we didn't have duplicates so thank you to everyone for improvising. I will order the stickers now for the fall (DS) and the next spring tryout session.
6. We should have received or will receive a cheque from Roy's for their sponsorship. It will be approximately \$3200.
7. My position is up for re-election this year and I will put my name forward to be on the WGHA Board for another two-year term.

2024-25 Season Sponsorship Report

The sponsorship portfolio supported the WGHA membership in the 2024-25 season through a variety of financial and in-kind commitments from businesses and organizations.

Over 90% of our house league teams were represented by on-jersey sponsorship agreements this season, with further support provided to the association through secondary jersey patch sponsors in some divisions and broader overall league sponsorship agreements.

Many organizations remained committed to their sponsorship of the WGHA. In particular, we'd like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our long-term partners: the local Whitby McDonalds, the McDonald's atoMc program, and Pro Hockey Life.

Renewed sponsorship was also received with thanks from Scotiabank, Cupcake Junkie, Liz's No Frills, Roys Enterprise, Desjardins and High Five Photography.

The WGHA also welcomed with thanks our new sponsors this season: Owasco Volkswagen, Walchuk Heating & Cooling, 407 ETR, and Toppers Pizza.

Looking Forward

For the upcoming 2025-26 season, the WGHA is looking forward to receiving ongoing sponsorship support from our partners. The WGHA sponsorship portfolio remains committed to helping house league members by generating additional association revenue to help keep registration fees more affordable, and by delivering other money-saving opportunities for all members through discounts and promotions.